



Gravity Sewer Informational Guide for Residents

Maintaining our gravity sewer system is crucial to ensure the health, safety, and cleanliness of our community.

WHAT IS A GRAVITY SEWER?

A gravity sewer is a type of sewer system that relies on gravity to transport wastewater from homes and businesses to a treatment facility or disposal site. Unlike pressurized systems that use pumps, gravity sewers use the natural slope of the land and the force of gravity to move the sewage through the pipes.

HOW GRAVITY SEWERS WORK:

SLOPING PIPES: The pipes in a gravity sewer system are installed at a downward slope, allowing wastewater to flow naturally due to gravity.

MANHOLES: Manholes are placed at regular intervals along the sewer line to provide access for maintenance and to ensure proper ventilation.

MAIN SEWERS: Wastewater from individual properties flows into smaller lateral pipes, which connect to larger main sewer lines that transport the wastewater to treatment facilities.

BENEFITS OF GRAVITY SEWERS:

RELIABILITY: Fewer mechanical parts that can fail due to gravity.

LOW ENERGY COSTS: Gravity sewers do not require pumping stations, reducing energy consumption and operating costs.

CAPACITY: Gravity sewers can handle large volumes of wastewater, making them suitable for densely populated areas.

SIGNS OF A SEWER PROBLEM:

SLOW DRAINS: Multiple slow drains in the house can indicate a sewer issue.

UNPLEASANT ODORS: Foul smells coming from drains or around your property can be a sign of sewer problems.

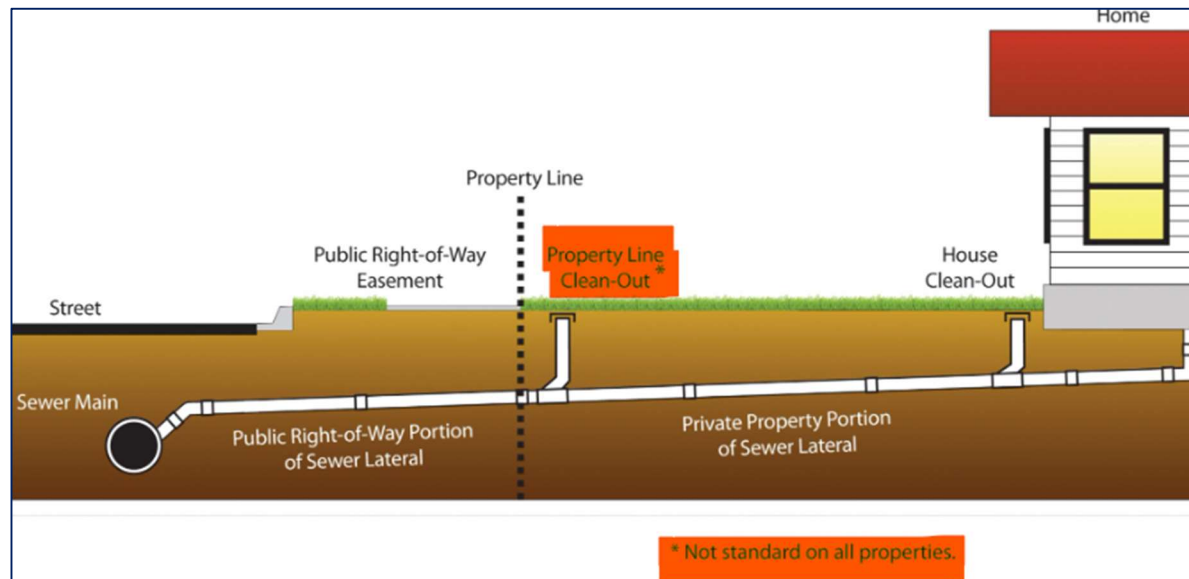
WET SPOTS OR LUSH GRASS: Unexplained wet spots or unusually lush grass patches in your yard can indicate a leak in the sewer line.

GURGLING SOUNDS: Unusual gurgling noises from your plumbing can signal a blockage or sewer problem.

MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY:

HOMEOWNERS: Homeowners are responsible for maintenance from their home to the property line (right of way).

CITY OF GULF BREEZE UTILITY: The City is responsible for maintenance from the cleanout at the property line to the main.



Each home will have a clean-out installed at the property line. Residents should **KNOW** where their clean-out is and should **NOT** bury it. The clean-out serves as the city's access point to the residents' system in case any problems occur.

GRAVITY SEWER MAINTENANCE TIPS:

PROPER DISPOSAL PRACTICES:

- **Avoid Flushing Non-Degradable Items:** Do not flush items like wipes, sanitary products, paper towels, and diapers, as they will cause blockages.
- **Dispose of Grease Properly:** Never pour grease or cooking oil down the drain. Instead, collect it in a container and dispose of it in the trash.
- **Use Trash Bins:** Dispose of food waste, coffee grounds, and other solids in the trash instead of the sink or toilet.

REGULAR INSPECTIONS:

- **CHECK FOR LEAKS:** Regularly inspect your home's plumbing for leaks, especially around sinks, toilets, and drains.
- **LOOK FOR SLOW DRAINS:** If you notice slow drains, it could indicate blockage. Address it promptly with appropriate measures.

INSTALL PROTECTIVE DEVICES:

- **USE DRAIN SCREENS:** Install drain screens or strainers in sinks, showers, and tubs to catch hair, food particles, and other debris.
- **LINT TRAPS FOR WASHING MACHINES:** Use lint traps on your washing machine's discharge hose to prevent lint from entering the sewer system.

AVOID CHEMICAL DRAIN CLEANERS:

- **USE NATURAL ALTERNATIVES:** Chemical drain cleaners can damage pipes and the sewer system. For minor clogs, use natural alternatives like baking soda, vinegar, or a plunger.

BE MINDFUL OF LANDSCAPING:

- **AVOID PLANTING TREES NEAR SEWER LINES:** Tree roots can infiltrate and damage sewer lines. Plant trees and shrubs away from your sewer line.
- **MAINTAIN PROPER GRADING:** Ensure that the ground around your home slopes away from the foundation to prevent water from accumulating around sewer lines.

EDUCATE YOUR HOUSEHOLD:

- **INFORM FAMILY MEMBERS:** Make sure everyone in your household understands what **should and should NOT** go down the drains.

PROFESSIONAL MAINTENANCE:

- **REGULAR PROFESSIONAL INSPECTIONS:** Schedule regular inspections and maintenance with a licensed plumber to check for potential issues in your sewer line.
- **SEWER LINE CLEANING:** Consider periodic professional cleaning of your sewer line to prevent buildup and blockages.

By following these tips, residents can help maintain their gravity sewer system, ensuring its efficiency and longevity while preventing potential health hazards and costly repairs.

PLUMBING SERVICE COMPANIES

CERTIFIED PLUMBING:	850.554.2727
DOWNS PLUMBING	850.459.6954
BOYD PLUMBING	850.968.0711

This list should be used as a starting point for Homeowners seeking price quotes for services; it is not intended to be a comprehensive list.

